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development should find it very helpful, while the average reader, for whom it is really intended, will find its pages far from being dull.

WALTER S. TOWER.

*University of Chicago.*

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**Reid, G. Archdall.** *The Laws of Heredity.* Pp. ix, 548. Price, \$5.00. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

A few years ago I had the opportunity of making mention in this book department of a volume by Dr. Reid, "Principles of Heredity." In many ways this later work is a decided advance on the older. In fact I know no recent volume in the biological field in which there is a clearer perception of the far-reaching influences of the newer facts upon social policies, nor one in which so many different questions of fact are discussed. I do not say that all of Dr. Reid's hypotheses will stand, but they do make one think—no mean accomplishment incidentally.

The author is not presenting studies of new laboratory experiments, but writes as an observer. To the defense of these methods he devotes too much attention. Our own space does not permit any detailed analysis of the author's arguments and a brief summary of some of his conclusions must suffice.

"Except actual injuries . . . all the characters of living beings result from an interaction between the hereditary tendencies or potentialities of the individual and stimuli which awaken them to activity." . . . "I have roughly grouped under the head of nutriment all stimuli save use and injury." Present biology is wrong in distinguishing *inborn* and *acquired* characters. "The so-called acquirements arise under the stimulus of use or injury: the so-called inborn characters under other stimuli, especially that of nutriment." Hence "the characters which arise under the stimulus of use or injury in the parents are not reproduced in the child under the stimulus of nutriment." In his opinion natural selection has played the great role and he does not think that Mendel's discoveries, or the mutation theory are of great importance. He would emphasize *retrogressive* variation as over against the *progressive* so much discussed by other writers.

This biological side is developed in the first ten chapters. Thereafter the author turns to human beings to see what evidence is offered and what programs may be suggested. Disease, alcohol, idealism, mind and body, memory, intemperance and insanity, and education are among the topics treated, in suggestive fashion.

The main conclusion of the book with reference to the laws of heredity is: "of these laws, if any of them are real laws, the most important from the scientific standpoint, because the most basic, is the generalization that the vast majority of variations are under the immediate control of natural selection, and are therefore spontaneous in the sense that they arise independently of the direct action of the environment, and that on these spontaneous variations only is evolution built; for they only are products of the

normal growth and change of the germ plasm, all others being results of injury to it. If this be a truth, the close and continuous adaptation of persisting species to their environment necessarily follows. On the other hand, the conclusion that the 'acquirements' of the individual are as much a part of his inheritance as his 'inborn' traits is, from the practical standpoint, the most important of all." Such a conclusion certainly challenges thought. The volume will be invigorating and stimulating whether the conclusion be accepted or not.

CARL KELSEY.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

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**Reinsch, Paul S.** (Ed.). *Readings on American State Government*. Pp. vi, 473. Price, \$2.25. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1911.

This book supplements the volume of "Readings on American Federal Government" by the same editor; and consists, like the former work, of a series of selected articles and addresses by various writers grouped under a number of topics. The present volume is but little more than half the size of the earlier book, and makes a more usable book. The selections also appear to have been made with more care, and form a useful collection of readings in a field where it has been difficult to find material which can readily be used in large classes.

Comparing the two volumes further, there is a striking difference in the general character of the selections. While the readings on federal government were mostly chosen from the writings or speeches of men in official position, those on state government are for the most part by non-official persons. There are, however, fifteen of the sixty-two selections from the messages and addresses of state governors—six by La Follette, three by Folk, two by Russell, of Massachusetts, and one each by Willson (Kentucky), McLean (Connecticut), Hughes (New York) and Garvin (Rhode Island). Other men in public positions who are quoted include Judge Baldwin, Senator Bourne, Elihu Root and William H. Taft.

About a dozen selections are taken from addresses before bar association meetings, a source seldom used by the student of government. Others are from articles in scientific periodicals; some are from the more popular magazines, and in a few cases extracts have been taken from daily newspapers.

Both of Professor Reinsch's volumes of readings differ distinctly from the "Readings on American Government and Politics" by Professor Beard. The latter are mainly extracts from official documents, and are often illustrations of certain forms of official action. Reinsch's readings are more extended discussions of political tendencies and public problems. Both classes of selections are valuable supplements to the text-book; and with these volumes the instructor in a course on American government has now at his command a considerable body of material for his students. The general reader will also find that these selections will add a good deal